

National Foundation for American Policy

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New Research: Allowing Venezuelans in the U.S. in Temporary Protected Status to Remain Would Benefit the U.S. Economy More Than Selling Venezuelan Oil

Arlington, Va. – Allowing Venezuelans in the United States in Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to stay would be significantly more valuable to the U.S. economy and federal budget than the Venezuelan oil the American government may sell, according to a National Foundation for American Policy [analysis](#). Permitting approximately 616,000 Venezuelans currently in TPS to remain in the United States rather than being deported would, in 2026, reduce the federal deficit by \$4.5 billion and increase U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$40.5 billion.¹ The cumulative benefit over three years (through 2028) of allowing Venezuelans to stay would reduce the deficit by \$16.3 billion and increase GDP by \$128.3 billion.² Over 10 years, Venezuelans on TPS remaining in America rather than being deported would lower the federal deficit by \$70.9 billion and raise GDP by \$504.4 billion, compared to the value of 50 million barrels of oil Venezuela “will be turning over” to the United States, worth about \$2.8 billion.³ It is unclear how much of that \$2.8 billion will accrue to U.S. taxpayers or otherwise benefit U.S. GDP, or how much additional oil will be sold. Donald Trump has spoken of sharing the proceeds with Venezuela.

The National Foundation for American Policy is a nonpartisan public policy research organization based in Arlington, Virginia. The study “An Analysis of the Fiscal and Economic Gains From Venezuelans on TPS in the United States,” can be found at <https://nfap.com/>.

The National Foundation for American Policy performed the analysis using a Congressional Budget Office simulation tool. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem ended Temporary Protected Status for approximately 616,000 Venezuelans after asserting conditions had improved in the country under Nicolás Maduro. TPS allows individuals to avoid deportation and work in the United States. After Maduro’s ouster, the Trump administration encouraged Venezuelans in the United States to leave.⁴ NFAP estimates that approximately 400,000 Venezuelans are in the U.S. labor force, meaning that if they left the United States, the U.S. economy would lose their labor and other economic contributions.

“People being more valuable than oil is not a naïve moral sentiment but a hard economic reality,” said labor economist Mark Regets, an NFAP senior fellow. “Economies are systems. Taxes are paid not only from a worker’s own wages, but also by the businesses where they work and by the businesses from which they buy goods and services. In modern labor markets, value is also created by workers with diverse skills making each other more productive.”

¹ National Foundation for American Policy calculations and analysis using the Congressional Budget Office simulation tool contained in <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61183>.

² Calculated from unrounded numbers.

³ Kayla Epstein and Osmond Chia, “Trump says Venezuela will be ‘turning over’ up to 50 million barrels of oil to US,” BBC, January 7, 2026.

⁴ Brittany Gibson, “600,000 Venezuelans face U.S. deportation after Maduro raid,” *Axios*, January 6, 2025.

Table 1
The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Removing Venezuelan TPS Recipients from the United States

Year	Increase in Federal Deficit (Current Dollars)	Decrease in GDP (2025 Dollars)
2026	\$4.5 Billion	\$40.5 Billion
2027	\$5.8 Billion	\$42.8 Billion
2028	\$5.9 Billion	\$44.9 Billion
2029	\$6.2 Billion	\$47.1 Billion
2030	\$6.5 Billion	\$49.2 Billion
2031	\$6.9 Billion	\$51.4 Billion
2032	\$7.6 Billion	\$53.7 Billion
2033	\$8.3 Billion	\$55.9 Billion
2034	\$9.1 Billion	\$58.2 Billion
2035	\$10.0 Billion	\$60.6 Billion
10-Year Total	\$70.9 Billion	\$504.4 Billion

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Congressional Budget Office. Based on the loss of an estimated 400,000 workers.

The analysis of the impact of removing Venezuelan TPS recipients follows an October 2025 NFAP report on the economic and fiscal effects of the administration's immigration policies: "The Trump administration's policies on illegal and legal immigration would reduce the projected number of workers in the United States by 6.8 million by 2028 and by 15.7 million by 2035 and lower the annual rate of economic growth by almost one-third, harming U.S. living standards."⁵

The analysis found, "Due to fewer workers in the labor force, the Trump administration's immigration policies would lead to a potential labor loss to the U.S. economy of approximately 19 million worker years by 2028 and 102 million worker years by 2035, according to the analysis. The policies would reduce the projected cumulative goods and services produced (GDP) in America by \$1.9 trillion, or \$5,612 per person, from 2025 to 2028, and by \$12.1 trillion, or \$34,369 per person, from 2025 to 2035. The policies would also substantially increase the federal debt."⁶

Removing Venezuelans from the U.S. labor force would come after a year in which government data indicate the number of foreign-born workers has dropped. The Bureau of Labor Statistics [household survey](#) shows a decline of 1.1 million foreign-born workers since the Trump administration started in January 2025, and a drop of 1.5 million since a peak in March 2025, according to an NFAP analysis of government data. The Congressional Budget Office and the Social Security Administration had assumed more than 2 million net immigrants into the United States in 2025, which would translate into approximately 1.3 million more workers, or a gap of more than 2 million workers compared with the most recent BLS data.⁷

⁵ The Economic Impact of the Trump Administration's Immigration Policies, NFAP Policy Brief, National Foundation for American Policy, October 2026.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ While there are high standard errors in the monthly survey, this was the fourth consecutive monthly estimate to show a decline of more than 1 million foreign-born workers since January. Each monthly estimate showed a statistically decrease since January, and their consistency lends support to the

About the National Foundation for American Policy

Established in 2003, the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization based in Arlington, Virginia focusing on trade, immigration and related issues. The Advisory Board members include Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati, Ohio University economist Richard Vedder, Cornell Law School professor Stephen W. Yale-Loehr and former INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar. Over the past 24 months, NFAP's research has been written about in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and other major media outlets. The organization's reports can be found at www.nfap.com. X.com: [@NFAPResearch](https://twitter.com/NFAPResearch)

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magnitude of the change being fairly accurate significant decrease since January, and their consistency lends support to the magnitude of the change being fairly accurate.